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Farming Problems in 1919

*To the Farmers and
the Agricultural
Forces of the
United States:*

DURING the period since we entered the war the farmers of the Nation have responded magnificently to the appeals for increased production, and all the people have complied with the urgent requests for fuller conservation. During this present fall season our farmers have planted an increased wheat acreage and a large acreage in rye. It is too early now to make detailed suggestions for the spring planting season. We do not know how the fall grains will come through the winter and we are not now able to forecast the demands and the conditions which will prevail after the first of the year.

This Department, the agricultural colleges and other organizations will continue to give definite thought to all the problems, and at the proper time will lay the situation before you.

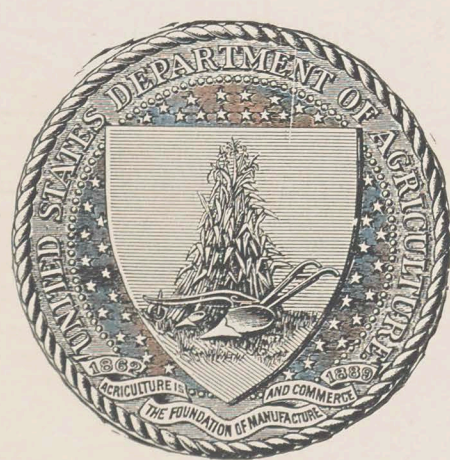
Two things seem to be clear:

One is that for a considerable period the world will have need particularly of a larger supply than normal of live stock, and especially of fats. We should not fail, therefore, to adopt every feasible means of economically increasing our live-stock

products. As a part of our program we should give due thought to the securing of an adequate supply of feed stuffs and to the eradication and control of all forms of animal disease.

The other is the need of perfecting the organization of our agricultural agencies for the purpose of intelligently executing such a program as may seem wise. We should not only have the best possible organization and cooperation of the Department of Agriculture, the agricultural colleges, the State departments of agriculture and farmers' associations, but we should especially strengthen the local farm bureaus and other organizations which support so effectively the extension forces and assist them in their activities. The perfecting of this organization is highly desirable not only during the continuance of the present abnormal conditions but also for the future. The local as well as the State and Federal agencies are of supreme importance to the Nation in all its activities designed to make rural life more profitable, healthful and attractive, and, therefore, to secure adequate economic production, efficient distribution and necessary conservation.

The main purpose of this appeal is to direct attention to the necessity of continuing our state of preparedness and of strengthening the foundations of our agriculture.



D. J. Houston
Secretary of Agriculture.

November 13, 1918.